



Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning

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Taking Care of Wild Places

1. The Tennessee Legislature: end of session. p. 3
 - A. Land-acquisition funds survived
 - B. Scenic Vistas sent to summer study
 - C. Environmental boards reorganized
 - D. Miscellaneous bills that passed
 - E. Anti-UN resolution
 - F. Anti-Science bill
 - G. Upcoming retirements
2. Other Tennessee news p. 4
 - A. Cummins Falls becomes state park
 - B. Laurel-Snow Natural Area now in public domain
 - C. New oil & gas rules will include fracking
 - D. TennYen, a new youth network
3. Obed and Big South Fork capsules p. 5
 - A. Well plugging in BSFNRRRA
 - B. Obed raft trip
 - C. River data on the web
 - D. New River pollution
 - E. Volunteers honored
4. EPA fights setback on mountaintop removal p. 6
5. The Cherokee and other National Forests p. 6
 - A. Restoration strategies for the Cherokee NF
 - B. Roadless Rule compromise in Colorado
 - C. Bill requires that the national forests be managed to make money
6. Climate change p. 7
 - A. EPA sets carbon-pollution standards for power plants
 - B. Biofuels: complex considerations
 - C. Heartland Institute: continuing, and worse
 - D. Climate-change capsules
7. Biofuels: complex considerations p. 8
 - A. Benefits and dangers
 - B. Biomass from forests
 - C. Biomass from dedicated energy crops
8. Other national issues p. 9
 - A. Sportsmen's Heritage Act holds multiple dangers
 - B. Coal-ash regulations: late? or perhaps never?
 - C. Science academies around the world weigh in on global challenges
 - D. Four new wildlife refuges
 - E. Politics and conservation advocates
9. Oak Ridge area. p. 11
 - A. ORHS wetland
 - B. DOE funds wetland construction
 - C. Solar farms at old K-25 site
10. TCWP news (Brochure; Activities; Help wanted; Board member news; From the Exec. Dir.; Thanks) p. 11
11. Calendar; Resources p. 13
12. ACTION SUMMARY p. 2

The BIG stories

Scenic Vistas bill sent to summer study ¶1B

Cummins Falls becomes State park ¶2A

EPA fights setback on mountaintop removal ¶4

CO₂ standards proposed for power plants ¶6A

Complexities of biofuel policies..... ¶7

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Shaded box or star means "Action Needed." Don't be overwhelmed -- check the ACTION SUMMARY on p. 2

12. ACTION SUMMARY

¶No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1B	Keeping Scenic Vistas bill alive	State legislators	"Please provide detailed info on summer study!"
1C	Upcoming fracking regulations	Sandra Goss	"Provide info on analysis so I can comment!"
4	Mountaintop-removal mining	Lisa Jackson, EPA Nancy Sutley, CEQ	"Thank you for appealing court decision on Spruce No.1 permit!" "Get CoE to revoke Spruce No.1 Mine permit!"
6A	Carbon standards for power plants	EPA (by June 12)	"Thank you! I strongly support these, but please strengthen!"
8A	Sportsmen's Heritage Act threatens environmental protections	US Rep (exc. Cohen, Cooper) US senators	"I am very disappointed in your vote!" "Adopt clarifying language of Holt amendment!"
8B	Coal-ash regulations	US senators	"Oppose Transportation amendments that gut coal-ash protections!"
10D	Secret City Festival	TCWP	Volunteer for 2-hour shift in TCWP booth

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Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman Doe
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Dear Mr. President
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Dear Gov. Haslam
Respectfully yours,

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To call any Repr. or Senator, dial Congressional switchboard, 202-224-3121. To find out about the status of bills, call 202-225-1772.
URLs: <http://www.house.gov/lastname/> and <http://lastname.senate.gov/> General contact info: <http://www.lcv.org>
With mail to Congress still slow following the anthrax scare, consider faxing, phoning, and other modes of communication.

There is much contact information in the up-to-date Political Guide we have mailed to you. You can also access the Guide, some current action calls, and much other information, on TCWP's website (<http://www.tcwp.org>).

WHAT IS TCWP?

TCWP (Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning) is dedicated to achieving and perpetuating protection of natural lands and waters by means of public ownership, legislation, or cooperation of the private sector. While our first focus is on the Cumberland and Appalachian regions of Tennessee, our efforts may extend to the rest of the state and the nation. TCWP's strength lies in researching information pertinent to an issue, informing and educating our membership and the public, interacting with groups having similar objectives, and working through the legislative, administrative, and judicial branches of government on the federal, state, and local levels.

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1. THE TENNESSEE LEGISLATURE: end of session

1A. *Land-acquisition funds survived intact*

Gov. Haslam's FY 2012/13 Tennessee State Budget submitted to the legislature included all four of the conservation-land acquisition funds, altogether \$16,515,000. All survived through the end of the session of the General Assembly. There was one time for worry, when a bill (SB.2726) was introduced that would have abolished the Real Estate Transfer Tax (the source of the acquisition funds). This bill was killed in subcommittee.

1B. *The Scenic Vistas bill sent to summer study*

The Scenic Vistas bill uttered a few tantalizing gasps and then died for the session. SB.577 was actually voted out of committee and onto the Senate floor (a big step), BUT in completely meaningless form, due to an amendment (by Senator Mike Bell, R, Polk County). Some of the very legislators who had been instrumental in destroying the bill then took credit for its projected passage.

Subsequently, the House Conservation & Environment subcommittee sent HB.291 (the original companion bill) to "summer study." We must make sure that this study actually takes place, and that the bill can be kept alive (see action box, below).

Thanks to House sponsor Mike McDonald's persuasiveness, the vote was a close 6 : 4. *For* Summer Study (i.e., *against* passage of the bill) were Reps. Richard Floyd, John Tidwell, David Hawk, Ron Lollar, Pat Marsh, and Frank Niceley. Voting *not* to send the bill to Summer Study (i.e., voting to pass it out of committee) were Reps. Charles Curtiss, Brenda Gilmore, Mike Kernell, and Art Swann. They deserve our thanks. To help keep the bill alive for next year, see the action box.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact your state legislators (see Political Guide) and push them to furnish information on when the study session will occur, and who will be involved.

1C. *Environmental boards reorganized*

Parts of HB.2387/SB.2249 (a broad reorganization bill) deal with environment-related boards.

- (a) They transfer the duties of the Conservation Commission to the Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund;
- (b) they combine water quality control with oil & gas functions into the single Tennessee Board of Water Quality, Oil, and Gas (note that the revised oil & gas rules -- see ¶2C, this NL -- will be submitted to his new board);

- (c) they combine solid waste and underground-storage-tank oversight into the Underground Storage Tanks and Solid Waste Disposal Control Board.

The above changes will go into effect on October 1, 2012.

Other parts of the bill affect the governor's authority to appoint board members, make the nomination process subject to broad public notice, and speak to the preferred qualifications of board members.

1D. *Miscellaneous bills that passed*

- SB.3647/HB.3111 was amended to create the Doe Mountain Recreation Authority Act of 2012. The TN Nature Conservancy purchased Doe Mountain in Johnson County, ~ 8,600 acres of forested land in the lower Blue Ridge. The goal is to protect this land while allowing a carefully managed and measured approach to the development that will inevitably occur. TNC is selling the land to the state and proposed the Doe Mt. Recreation Authority, which was created through this legislation.
- SB.948/HB.1455 will give relief to local governments working to enhance or create local parks.

1E. *Anti-UN resolution: an embarrassment*

The Senate, voting 19 : 11, joined the House, which on March 15 voted overwhelmingly (72 : 23, NL302 ¶1D) to pass HJR.587. This Joint Resolution, puts the Tennessee General Assembly on record as *opposing* Agenda 21 that was adopted by the UN in 1992 and supported by Presidents George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush. Agenda 21, which is not a binding treaty on the United States, supports efforts at sustainable growth for our planet, including responsible environmental protection, thoughtful planning, mass transit, sustainability, etc.

HJR.587 was drafted by the John Birch Society and promoted by extremist groups in TN and elsewhere. Proponents (subscribing to a conspiracy theory) charge that Agenda 21 is a scheme to take away citizens' property rights, and that environmentalism is an insidious effort by the UN to achieve world domination.

1F. *Anti-science bill: another embarrassment*

At the end of March, the General Assembly passed HB.368/SB.893, which allows classroom teachers to position well-established scientific topics, such as evolution and global warming, as "controversial." Students confused about well-established scientific facts will have a harder time getting into college and more difficulty qualifying for the high-tech jobs of the 21st century, and they will be unprepared to deal with the very real impacts of climate change that are their inheritance. This bill is also likely to damage Tennessee's reputation in science education, and it could harm science and technology jobs in the state.

Governor Haslam did not sign the bill, but he didn't veto it either (despite the very large number of voices that urged him to do so). The bill therefore becomes law without his signature.

1G. *Upcoming retirements
will hurt prospects
for pro-environment legislation*

When the General Assembly returns next year, several friends of the environment will be gone, as will be one of the best voices in the media. The following information is from TCV Legislative Reports.

- Rep. McDonald: "Probably [no legislator] has served as a greater voice for the environment than Rep. Mike McDonald. Rep. McDonald lived up to his reputation with his strong defense of the Scenic Vistas Protection Act [in March] (see ¶1B). Sadly, Rep. McDonald will not be seeking re-election this year and the legislature is losing a great leader."
- "There are other environmental friends who will not be returning - either because redistricting has affected their chances to be elected, because they'll be running for another elected position, or [because] they're retiring." (Note: redistricting forced some good legislators, especially Democrats, to run against other good ones in primaries, causing a net loss.)
- Long time *Tennessean* environmental writer Anne Paine is retiring. Her work has spanned environmental issues of significance to all Tennesseans. In the past year alone, she demonstrated journalistic standards that are rare in today's reporting climate. During the current legislative session she wrote very thorough and revealing stories on mountain-top removal mining, hydraulic fracturing, the potential tax hike on solar equipment, and the attack on sustainable development by the far right, to name a few. Her insightful and important work on behalf of environmental issues will be greatly missed.

2. OTHER TENNESSEE NEWS

2A. *Cummins Falls becomes state park*

Over the past five years, the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation (TPGF) has conducted an energetic and ultimately successful campaign to purchase 211 acres surrounding beautiful Cummins Falls on the Blackburn Fork State Scenic River to protect the area against threatened residential development (NL301 ¶2B). This purchase has now become Tennessee's newest state park – the 54th. It's an auspicious occasion because this year marks the 75th Anniversary of Tennessee's State Parks System.

Located in Jackson County near Gainesboro and Cookeville, Cummins Falls, 75 ft high, is Tennessee's eighth largest waterfall. Its location on the Eastern Highland Rim makes for dramatic topography. The new park

is situated in the lushly forested gorge of Blackburn Fork, a State Scenic River and designated US Watershed Hot Spot (because of its rich aquatic life).

The official announcement of State Park designation will be made by Gov. Bill Haslam on the occasion of an onsite lunch on May 22. Attendees will include representatives of the Tenn. Dept. of Environment & Conservation, the Tenn. Wildlife Resources Agency, and TPGF.

2B. *Laurel-Snow Natural Area now in public domain*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

On the first Friday in May, about 50 people gathered to dedicate the Laurel-Snow State Natural Area and to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Tennessee State Parks. The Natural Area, long managed by the state but owned privately, received a great boost last year when long-time owners, the Gardner family, agreed to the State of Tennessee fully acquiring the land.

Hosted by Tennessee State Parks and by Friends of the Cumberland Trail, the event was attended by many public representatives, including State Senator Ken Yager (in whose district Rhea County lies), Rhea County Executive George Thacker (in whose county the Natural Area lies); several TDEC officials, notably Asst. Commissioner Brock Hill and Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail Manager Bob Fulcher; and representatives from Resolute Forest Products (formerly Bowater), Cumberland Trail Conference, Friends of the Cumberland Trail, Southeast Climbing Coalition, Tennessee Trails Association, and other organizations. Representing TCWP were Treasurer Charlie Klabunde and Executive Director Sandra Goss.

The Area was one of the first Pocket Wildernesses established by Bowater Southern Paper Corp. in the early '70's. TCWP was mentioned as a lead environmental organization in the planning process of Bowater setting aside outstanding areas. With striking countryside in the Richland Creek gorge, and with two outstanding waterfalls (Laurel and Snow), this was the first Pocket Wilderness in the Bowater program.

The Cumberland Trail traverses the Natural Area. Bowater transferred their lease of the area to the state in 2007, along with a donation of 3,560 acres of wild forestland along the Trail. Thanks to the generosity of the Gardner Family, the *entire* area is now permanently protected.

2C. *New oil and gas rules will include fracking*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has posted proposed amendments to the state's oil and gas rules. According to the department's web site, "Various environmental groups have made a number of requests for amendments to the existing oil and gas rules. Most, not all, of these items involve concerns over fracturing practices. The Division proposes to address the most commonly mentioned issues."

Over the past several months, TCWP and sister organizations have been working to develop a more protective set of fracturing rules (NL302 ¶2B). TDEC staff have met with representatives from the oil and gas industry and the environmental community to discuss the current rules and how they can be improved to protect Tennessee's water and air.

In the coming weeks, we will work to analyze the proposed amendments, identify the good and weak points, and prepare comments for the upcoming hearings. The draft rules are available at <http://www.tn.gov/environment/wpc/ppo>.

Oral or written comments are invited at the hearing, which will be held Tuesday, July 10 at the Knoxville TDEC Field Office at 2:00 p.m. and again at 6:00 p.m. (See action box below for information that can help you develop comments.) Written comments may be submitted prior to or after the public hearing to: Division of Water Pollution Control, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Attention: Michael Burton, 6th Floor, L & C Annex, 401 Church Street, Nashville, Tennessee 37243-1534; telephone (615) 532-0645 or FAX (615) 532-0686 or Michael.K.Burton@tn.gov. Written comments must be received by July 20, 2012.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: We hope you'll be able to comment on these important rules and, to that end, will contact us for information on the analysis that is currently in progress. Call or write Sandra Goss at 865.583-3967, Sandra@sandrakgoss.com.

2D. *TennYen, a new youth network for the environment*

[Information from *The Oak Ridger*, 5/1/12]

The Tennessee Youth Environmental Network, the brain child of two Maryville High School graduates, was created to educate and empower high school youth around our state about the environment and the ongoing issues our planet faces from the use of fossil fuels. TennYen's two founders, Alex Durand and Laura Rigell, have traveled around the state talking about climate change and urging schools to form county coalitions. Six counties have already done so. TennYen has also been involved in holding tree plantings, organizing letter campaigns to stop mountain top removal coal mining, and other issues. Their website (www.tennyen.org) describes the group as "a newly established youth-led organization which supports young environmentalists in Tennessee through awareness-raising school visits, youth conferences, and an online network."

During June 4-8, TennYen is hosting the Youth Empowerment Summit (YES!) at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Institute at Tremont. E-mail conference@tennyen.org for more information.

3. OBED and BSF CAPSULES

3A. *Plugging of abandoned wells continues in Big South Fork NRR*

The country's first oil well is among 54 abandoned oil & gas wells within the BSFNRR that have been, or are in process of being, plugged. Located in the Kentucky portion of the Park, the 200ft-deep Beatty well was dug by hand in 1818 by people looking for salt, who struck oil instead.

Altogether, about 40 abandoned wells have already been plugged, using ARRA (stimulus) funds, and the remaining ones are projected to be plugged this spring and summer. The plan and EIS for this huge project, on which hearings were held last July (NL292 ¶2A; NL298 ¶1B), call for very high standards in order to protect groundwater from leaks of oil and gas. All surface disturbances are obliterated.

3B. *Obed raft trip, 3/31, a major success*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

On Saturday, March 31, TCWP undertook a white-water rafting outing to clean up the Obed River/Daddy's Creek between Devil's Breakfast Table (DBT) and Nemo Bridge. Rafter, kayakers, and Obed Wild and Scenic River staff set off on a temperate day with a threat of rain.

Thanks to Obed WSR Ranger Thomas Hall and TCWP Vice-president Frank Hensley, less than proficient paddlers (such as your scribe, who, by the way, turned over a canoe and drenched Reid Gryder and herself) were able to experience the Obed on rafts. Members of Chota Canoe Club and/or East Tennessee Whitewater Club responded to our request to provide equipment and service as safety boaters.

Because of low water flows, we set off from Obed Junction, rather than DBT. Despite the shortened trip, the trash collected was voluminous.

The weather was cooperative and the countryside was both interesting and inspiring: tall canyon walls looming overhead, big boulders strewn along the river, spring flowers both strutting and retiring, and the beautiful river flowing along, by turns carrying, pushing, and spinning us.

Carpoolers with Reid Gryder were treated to a brief history of East Tennessee Whitewater Club, the home-made canoes of the early members and their exploits on East Tennessee rivers. Happy 50th Anniversary ETWC, and thanks to ETWC and Chota for strong partnerships with TCWP to take care of natural waters.

3C. *River data on the web*

Real-time water-quality and water-flow data are now available from three sites in the Obed WSR and Big South Fork NRR, with two additional sites to be added soon. The existing sites are Adams Bridge (Obed), Lilly Bridge (Clear Creek) and New River. Coming soon are

Antioch Bridge (Daddys Creek) and Burnt Mill Bridge (Clear Fork).

The Lilly Bridge information, for example, which can be accessed at http://waterdata.usgs.gov/tn/nwis/uv?site_no=03539778, includes the following parameters: gage height, discharge (in cfs), conductance at 25°C, water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, and turbidity.

3D. *New River pollution*

In mid-March, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) issued a recreational water-contact advisory for the portion of the New River downstream from river mile 14.8, part of which is within the Big South Fork NRRRA. The cause of the pollution was operational failure (filters, then pumps) at the Huntsville, sewage-treatment plant. The advisory, which has now been lifted, pertained to all boating, swimming, and fishing.

3E. *Volunteers Honored on Obed River Cleanup Day*

For the morning's clean-up activities on May 19, the Park Service provided volunteers with trash bags, work gloves, and trash-grabbers. At noon, NPS treated not only the morning's workers, but anyone who had volunteered at Obed WSR in the past year to a free Volunteer Appreciation Lunch at the Visitor Center in Wartburg. For information about becoming a VIP (Volunteer In Park) at Obed Wild and Scenic River contact Moria Painter, Volunteer Coordinator at 423-346-6294.

4. EPA FIGHTS SETBACK IN THE BATTLE AGAINST MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL

Early in 2011 we rejoiced when the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) revoked the 2007 Corps of Engineers' (CoE) permit for the Spruce No.1 mine in Logan County, West Virginia, one of the largest mountaintop removal mines ever proposed. But on March 23 this year came a heartbreaking setback: US District Court Judge Amy Berman Jackson ruled that EPA's decision to rescind the permit exceeded the agency's authority. Great late-breaking news: EPA IS APPEALING THE COURT'S DECISION!

This mine, owned by Arch Coal of St. Louis, covers 2,278 acres and the operation would directly bury 6 miles of high-quality streams under more than 110 million cubic yards of mining waste, in addition to causing major water-quality damage downstream. EPA based its veto on extensive science showing that the proposed Spruce mine poses threats far too grave to the waters that it will destroy and to the communities below the mine, many of which have already suffered from the water, air, and health impacts of other mountaintop removal mining. □

Although Judge Jackson ruled that rescinding a legally issued permit was a "stunning power for an agency

to arrogate to itself," such power is, in fact granted under the Clean Water Act. As stated in a *NY Times* editorial of 3/27, "[T]he law gives the agency broad authority to protect water quality, including the 'withdrawal' of permits 'whenever' it determines that they will have an 'unacceptable adverse effect' on the environment. EPA has used this authority only twice in 40 years, and never before for a coalmine.

While Judge Jackson's ruling questioned EPA's authority to veto a permit, it did not refute the agency's determination that the mine will have unacceptable adverse environmental effects. But the Corps of Engineers continues to uphold the mine's permit, ignoring Clean Water Act protections and peer-reviewed science that demonstrates the harmful effects of burying water ways and polluting downstream waters with mining waste. It behooves the CoE to revoke the Spruce Mine No.1 permit.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: (a) Praise EPA for appealing the court decision. (b) Contact Nancy Sutley, Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality, to praise the Administration's initiatives to limit mountaintop removal mining, and to direct the Corps of Engineers to revoke the Spruce No.1 Mine permit. See Political Guide for addresses.

5. THE CHEROKEE and OTHER NATIONAL FORESTS

5A. *Restoration strategies for the Cherokee NF*

[Information from TNC's TN field notes]

When the lands that now constitute the Cherokee National Forest were acquired by the federal government in the 1920s and 1930s, they had been cut over, burnt, and overgrazed. No one wanted them at that time. As the forests gradually grew back, they tended to be even-aged, and thus not as healthy and resilient as long-existing forests.

The US Forest Service (USFS), cognizant of the need for restoration, called on the Tennessee Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to convene a committee that could provide advice on how to conduct the restoration in the 340,000-acre North Zone of the Cherokee NF. This 13-person committee came to include environmentalists, sportsmen, loggers, and forest managers. They relied on TNC's Enhanced Conservation Action Planning process (eCAP) to guide them through a scientific assessment of the Forest's current condition, as well as evaluating future management scenarios.

After two years of study, the committee sent a set of consensus-based recommendations to the USFS, which will soon be implemented. They include active methods of forest management (e.g., regeneration cuts, targeted thinning) as well as passive ones (let nature take its course).

Nissan has donated \$50,000 to TNC's program to combat invasive pests that threaten forest health. These

pests include the hemlock woolly adelgid, which is devastating forests in the Cumberlands and the Smokies.

5B. *Roadless Rule compromise in Colorado*

[Information from *The Denver Post*, 5/12/12]

Colorado is one of two states (Idaho is the other) that had issued state-specific rules for roadless areas, instituted as part of the Bush Administration's campaign against the National Forest Roadless Rule program. In October 2011, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals (in Denver) firmly and unanimously decreed to uphold the national Rule, thus rendering state-specific ones invalid.

Recently, however, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack weakened protections for national forests in Colorado by agreeing to a compromise in the name of protecting local economies and creating jobs. Of Colorado's 14.5 million acres of national forest lands, 4.4 million had been inventoried as roadless in 2001 (some claim that only 3.7 million remain roadless today). Under the compromise, scattered islands of "upper-tier" territory, covering 1.2 million acres across western Colorado, would be shielded from any new roads — even for building powerlines, non-water pipelines and telecom lines (i.e., protected more stringently than under the present state-specific rule). But coal mines, ski areas, oil- and-gas drillers, and loggers all would be allowed to build temporary roads on parts of the other 3 million acres.

Groups that have for years fought to defend the national Rule against repeated assaults argue that this compromise was not necessary, now that the definitive court ruling has so clearly upheld the national Rule. They point out that sacrificing 3 million acres to get better protection for 1.2 million makes no sense, especially since these 1.2 million acres would have been protected in any case. The latest (compromise) EIS could become final in early June.

5C. *Bill requires that the national forests be managed to make money for counties in which they are located*

[Information from FSEEE]

Under the Secure Rural School program, enacted in 2000, 729 rural counties throughout the nation have been receiving in-lieu-of-tax payments from the federal treasury to compensate them for the non-taxable status of federal lands. This program expired last year, but the Senate voted overwhelmingly to renew it. Not so the House.

Rep. Doc Hastings (R-WA), chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, has authored HR.4019, which requires that National Forests be managed for the single purpose of making money for the counties in which they are located. Each National Forest must provide revenue based on the highest logging levels in U.S. history (levels that were unsustainable).

In addition, HR.4019 repeals a large number of the nation's most important environmental laws, such as NEPA (1969), the Endangered Species Act (1973), the National Forest Management Act (1976), and others per-

taining to national forests. To replace these laws, the bill requires a short "environmental review," only "to the extent the Secretary considers appropriate and feasible." This short report would, moreover, be unassailable: "there shall be no judicial review of the environmental report." Scary?

6. CLIMATE CHANGE

6A. *EPA sets carbon-pollution standard for new power plants*

On March 27, EPA took the historic step of proposing, for the first time ever, to establish national limits on carbon pollution. These regulations are required under the "New Source Performance Standards" program of Sec. 111 of the Clean Air Act for any substance deemed to be an air pollutant. That CO₂ is such a pollutant has been confirmed by the Supreme Court.

The performance standards will affect fossil-fuel power plants. Such plants are the single largest source of dangerous carbon pollution in the U.S. and one of the largest in the world. The proposed standard of 1,000 pounds of CO₂ per megawatt hour of energy produced is low enough to limit new coal-fired power plants, but high enough not to affect natural-gas plants.

Even though the proposed regulations are not as strong as they could be, they have come under strong attack by fossil-energy lobbies and climate-change deniers. It is therefore essential that we give EPA our very strongest support (see Action Box, below, and note the June 12 deadline). Over the past year, the U.S. House of Representatives has passed many measures seeking to restrict the EPA's ability to protect the public health under the Clean Air Act, including the agency's ability to control carbon pollution. The Obama administration deserves credit for standing up to defend the Clean Air Act from these efforts and for moving forward with these landmark carbon standards.

True, the regulations could be strengthened by deleting two provisions: (a) a three-year exemption for biomass-burning power plants, which can produce high GHG emissions (see ¶7 this NL), and (b) a ten-year exemption for plants intending to install a carbon capture and storage (CCS) system, which remains an unproven technology. It has also been argued that the regulations are worthless because they apply only to *new* coal-fired power plants and such plants are unlikely to be built in any case.

It is true that while more than 150 new coal plants were on the drawing boards just a few years ago, strong pressures from environmental groups, as well as changes in market conditions, have caused nearly all of the plans to be shelved (most recently, in the southeast, the large Power4Georgians and a similar Georgia coal plant, fought by SELC and partners). But the plans could be dusted off if the economics of coal become favorable again. It is also important to realize that the section of the Clean Air Act under which the regulations are being proposed (Sec

111b, governing new sources) triggers a legal obligation for EPA to also regulate *existing* sources under Sec.111d. It's a question of time and, hopefully, a more favorable political climate.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: By June 12, contact EPA (see Political Guide, which is also on the TCWP website). Submit comments under Attn: Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2011- 0660.

Commend EPA and strongly support these first-time-ever national limits on carbon pollution. Enforcement of these regulations will help to control global warming, prevent adverse health effect, spur investment in clean energy, and create jobs. Urge EPA to delete the proposed exemptions for biomass incineration and for coal-fired plants that intend to install CCS systems, which are unproven. Above all, EPA should soon issue rules also for *existing* power plants.

6B. *Biofuels: complex considerations*

See ¶7, this NL

6C. *Heartland Institute: continuing, and worse*

[Information from *NY Times*, 5/4/12, and from Forecast The Facts]

The Heartland Institute, a libertarian think tank based in Chicago, which describes its chief mission as the promotion of free-market solutions to social and economic problems, has devoted most of its activities to denying human-caused climate change. We have earlier reported on the Institute's slick magazine and on its curriculum development (NL302 ¶6A).

Heartland's latest campaign is almost unbelievable: equating environmentalists with "the world's most notorious killers" because (according to the Heartland website) "what these murderers and madmen have said differs very little from what spokespersons for the United Nations, journalists for the 'mainstream' media and liberal politicians say about global warming."

On May 4, drivers on one of Chicago's major expressways saw Ted Kaczynski, the so-called Unabomber, staring at them from a massive billboard. "I still believe in global warming. Do you?" the billboard read in large maroon letters. Just below was the Web address www.heartland.org.

Hours later, the billboard was gone, and similar ones that had been planned, featuring Charles Manson, Fidel Castro, Osama bin Laden and others, have not appeared. In suspending its campaign (because the billboard angered even some of the Institute's supporters), Heartland said that "this provocative billboard was always intended to be an experiment" ... but "It got people's attention."

6D. *Climate-change capsules*

[Includes information from Forecast the Facts and from EDF]

- The American Meteorological Society's latest (draft) information statements on climate change, for the first time,

makes the unequivocal case for *human-induced* climate change.

- The Discovery Channel's program "On Thin Ice" (in their series "Frozen Planet") offered spectacular, rare footage of the Arctic, and presented powerful visual evidence (e.g., melting glaciers and disappearing habitats) of the changes being wrought by global warming. Discovery chose, however, to omit any mention of the human causes of climate change in an explicit effort to avoid criticism from climate-change deniers.
- Sen. Alexander has made the following suggestions for slowing carbon emissions: (a) building 100 nuclear plants in 20 years; (b) electrifying our cars and trucks in 30 years; (c) expanding offshore exploration for natural gas (which is low-carbon) and oil; (d) doubling research and development to make renewable-energy cost competitive with other forms of energy and to find a way to recapture carbon from coal plants. The senator opposes a cap-and-trade plan for carbon emissions, which he considers to be a tax.
- The US House of Representatives has passed a bill that would nullify the EPA's "Endangerment Finding" (that global warming poses a threat to human health). Climate deniers seem to think that an act of Congress can overturn laws of nature.

7. BIOFUELS: COMPLEX CONSIDERATIONS

This section of the NL may provide preliminary reading of interest for TCWP's upcoming (June 14) program on a biomass steam plant (see ¶10B, below).

7A. *Benefits and dangers from biofuel energy*

Biomass, either for direct combustion or for conversion to biofuels, is typically included in energy portfolios as a renewable energy source (in the same classification as wind and solar) on the assumption that energy from biomass is beneficial from a greenhouse gas (GHG) perspective. Recent studies that have looked more closely at the net GHG benefits of burning biomass, however, have revealed a much more complex situation. Though wood is a renewable resource, it is not automatically carbon neutral. Generally speaking, biomass can be obtained from forests (¶7B, below) and from the use of dedicated energy crops (¶7C, below).

7B. *Biomass from forests*

For forest biomass, a big consideration is that demand is likely to outstrip available supply of wood waste and thus create great pressure to cut standing forests or shorten rotation lengths, with negative impacts on vegetation, soil fertility, water, and ecosystem diversity. To examine GHG consequences of burning forest biomass, a

detailed study was recently commissioned by the Southern Environmental Law Center and the National Wildlife Federation. (Its 132 pages may be viewed at www.SouthernEnvironment.Org/publications.) Another major study has been done by the Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry, Oregon State University, and several European universities.

The studies show that while there may be long-term benefits, there are very serious near-term dangers. For 35-50 years, the use of forest-biomass electric power production will produce higher levels of atmospheric carbon than would the use of fossil fuel, and it would reduce carbon sequestration by forests. After that, levels would be lowered as re-growing forests absorb CO₂ from previous combustions. The near-term GHG increase is, however, almost certain to have highly deleterious climate consequences because of global-warming feedback and “tipping points.” This should render the 35-50 year payback periods for biomass electric power unacceptable to energy policy, especially since recent climate studies show that whatever the ultimate peak in atmospheric carbon, it will take much longer than previously thought — hundreds or thousands of years — for the Earth’s systems to bring it back down to what are considered safe levels.

The authors of one of the studies conclude that “society should fully quantify direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy alternatives, and associated consequences, prior to making policy commitments that have long-term effects on global forests.”

7C. *Biomass from energy crops*

Such crops can be grown on lands that are no longer forested, but their use must be carefully planned. Among biomass programs funded by \$1+ billion of ARRA money is the planting of giant miscanthus, which has been described as “a grass on steroids.” Because it is potentially invasive and can choke waterways, sterile seed will be used in pilot miscanthus plantings, but the grass can spread by sending out rhizomes. The crop is also very flammable.

In tropical countries, palm plantations have been another energy crop. EPA has analyzed the land-use implication of using palm oil to make biodiesel. The analysis correctly concludes that palm oil should not be allowed into the Renewable Fuel Standard Program because it does not meet the threshold required, namely 20% lower in carbon emissions than fossil fuels. The increasing demand for palm oil has been one of the chief causes for the clearing of tropical forests, which -- in addition to their great ecological value -- are huge carbon sinks.

8. OTHER NATIONAL ISSUES

8A. *Sportsmen’s Heritage Act, HR.4089, holds multiple dangers*

[Information from NPCA, Defenders of Wildlife, Wilderness Soc., SUWA]

On April 17, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Sportsmen’s Heritage Act, HR.4089. The innocently sounding purpose of the measure is to promote recreational hunting and fishing on our nation’s public lands, but the contents and language of the bill pose a multiplicity of severe dangers to some of our most important environmental protections.

- (a) HR.4089 could allow much of the National Park System to be opened to hunting and recreational shooting. The bill purports to exclude national parks and national monuments from hunting, but it is so poorly drafted that it could result in hunting being permitted in parks like the Great Smoky Mountains. In addition, it ignores the many National Park System designations that also do not allow hunting, such as national historical parks, national military parks, national memorials, etc.
- (b) The bill dangerously waters down the President’s authority to designate national monuments under the Antiquities Act because of an amendment that requires national monument designations to be approved by the state legislatures and governor of the host state.
- (c) HR.4089 chips away wilderness and Wilderness Study Area protections. It raises concerns that activities such as commercial development, road construction, logging, mining, fossil-fuel extraction, etc. would be allowed in areas managed as wilderness if those activities could be justified by hunting or fishing. An amendment to clarify that such activities would not be allowed failed, indicating that, indeed, the intent was to chip away at habitats -- not to protect hunters.
- (d) The bill could exempt decisions regarding hunting and fishing from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), including decisions to curtail hunting and fishing in favor of activities such as energy development.

A very reasonable technical amendment by Rep. Rush Holt (D-NJ) that would have clarified these concerns was rejected 152 : 260 on a virtually straight-partyline vote. In the Tennessee delegation, only the two Democrats (Cohen and Cooper) voted for the Holt amendment. All Republicans (except Fincher, who didn’t vote) said Nay to the amendment. The Senate will very soon be considering this bill, or the very similar S.2066.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: (a) Tell your Representative (except Cooper and Cohen) how disappointed you are in his/her vote. (b) Contact your Senator (see p.2) and tell him to adopt the clarifying language of the Holt amendment. At the very least, all 397 units of the National Park System should be excluded from the provisions of the bill.

8B. *Coal-ash regulations: late? or perhaps never?*

[Information from EarthJustice and Clean Water Network]

In May 2010, 1½ years after the major spill at TVA's Kingston steam plant, EPA issued draft coal-ash disposal regulations. Two years later, the rulemaking process remains to be finalized. In the meantime, Republicans in Congress are trying to make sure it never is.

On April 5, environmental and public health groups filed a lawsuit in US District Court, DC, to force the EPA to finalize public-health safeguards against toxic coal ash. EPA has not updated its waste disposal and control standards for coal ash in over 30 years. Coal ash is the by-product of coal-fired power plants, and includes a toxic mix of arsenic, lead, hexavalent chromium, mercury, selenium, cadmium and other dangerous pollutants. Since the time of the Kingston spill, an additional 29 power plants in 16 states have contaminated groundwater near coal-ash dumpsites. In 2010 alone, power plants used unsafe and leak-prone coal ash ponds to dispose of wastes containing 113.6 million pounds of toxic metals, a nearly 10% increase from 2009.

In the meantime, the US House of Representatives has acted to make the problem worse. On April 18, by a vote of 293 : 127, the House approved an amendment to the Transportation Extension that would essentially block EPA from setting enforceable standards for the safe disposal of toxic coal ash by designating states as the primary regulators. State laws governing coal-ash disposal are weak or non-existent.

The bill is currently before a conference committee (14 senators and 33 representatives, including Tennessee's Rep. John Duncan, Jr.), which must reconcile the House's Transportation Extension and the Senate's Transportation Bill into "must-pass" transportation legislation.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your Senators (see p.2) to say **NO** to any Transportation Bill amendments that gut federal coal-ash protections.

8C. *Science academies from around the world weigh in on global challenges*

[From the National Academies]

On May 10, national science academies from 15 countries* issued joint statements calling on world leaders who are about to meet at the upcoming G8 Summit and other international gatherings this year (e.g. the G20 summit, the Rio+20 environmental summit, and other events) to give greater consideration to the vital role science and technology could play in addressing some of the planet's most pressing challenges.

The "G-Science" statements recommend that governments engage the international research community in developing systematic, innovative solutions to three global dilemmas: how to simultaneously meet water and energy needs; how to build resilience to natural and technological disasters; and how to more accurately gauge coun-

tries' greenhouse gas emissions to verify progress toward national goals or international commitments.

* Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Russia, South Africa, U.K., and USA, i.e., countries beyond the so-called G8+5.

8D. *Four new wildlife refuges*

Four new wildlife refuges, scattered across the country, were recently announced by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. From east to west, they are:

- Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Pennsylvania
- Dakota Grassland Conservation Area in N. and S. Dakota
- Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area in Kansas
- Tulare Basin Wildlife Management Area in California.

8E. *Politics and conservation advocates*

- Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), who has been a tireless advocate for Utah's redrock wilderness, plans to retire at the end of this term. Hinchey has won important legislative battles against bills designed to diminish Utah's wilderness, has repeatedly prodded BLM toward careful stewardship of the land, and has been the chief sponsor of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act, which now has 120 House cosponsors and a Senate champion, Dick Durbin (D-IL). Above all, Hinchey believes that these magnificent lands belong to *all* Americans, in contrast to many Utah politicians who won't rest until there is no public land in the state.
- On April 5, Republicans for Environmental Protection, REP, ceased to exist by dropping the word "Republican" from their name. This effective organization had been around for several years.
- Four major environmental groups endorsed Pres. Obama's reelection in concert, and early in the election cycle (April 18). They are the Clean Water Action Fund, League of Conservation Voters, Sierra Club, and Environment America. While they do not endorse all of his environmental policies (e.g. domestic natural gas development), they have singled out several actions for praise: proposed national standards for carbon emissions from power plants (§6A, this NL), opposed by Romney; proposed new national standards to increase fuel efficiency standards to 54.5 miles per gallon by the year 2025 (NL302 §6B); implemented the first-ever national standards to limit mercury and other toxic air pollution from power plants (NL301 §5D); fought to eliminate Big Oil's special tax breaks (which are supported by Romney) and invest the savings in clean, renewable energy sources that create jobs.

9. OAK RIDGE AREA

9A. *Oak Ridge High School creates wetland*

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

A couple of weeks ago construction was completed to build a wetland at Oak Ridge High School (ORHS). Funding for the construction was provided through a grant provided to the Clinch River Environmental Studies Organization (www.cresosnake.com) by the US Department of Energy. John Bird (CRESO) and Steve Forbes (Arcadis) modified an existing stormwater detention basin between the gym and the track to include the wetland. John and Steve have designed and built similar wetlands at several other schools in the area. TCWP president and wetland scientist Jimmy Groton will assist ORHS teachers Beth Adler and Deni Sobek and their students to develop a planting design for the wetland and help to plant and maintain the wetland and surrounding buffer area.

The wetland will provide a hands-on, outdoor classroom for ORHS Biology and Environmental Science students to study wetland ecology. The wetland will also provide a happy home to wetland animals such as frogs, salamanders, and dragonflies. SAIC provided a \$2,000 grant to help purchase wetland plants and scientific equipment and supplies to monitor and study the wetland.

9B. *DOE funds wetland construction/environmental education*[Information from ORSSAB *Advocate*, April 2012]

The ORHS wetland project described in ¶9A, above is one of 11 in Anderson County that will be funded by a \$150,000 Supplemental Environmental Project from the Department of Energy. DOE was provided the opportunity to use this type of project in lieu of a \$75,000 penalty owed to the state for missed 2010 milestones in a groundwater-treatability study.

The agreement between DOE and the TDEC (TN Dept. of Environment and Conservation) calls for the construction of artificial wetlands to improve the area's wildlife habitat and educate local middle school, high school, and undergraduate students. Most projects will involve creating small fish-free ponds that are crucial for organisms with complex life cycles, such as amphibians.

9C. *Solar farms at old K-25 site*[Information from ORSSAB *Advocate*, April 2012]

A 200kw solar farm has been constructed adjacent to Highway 58 near K-25, and construction of another one is slated to begin soon. Talks are reportedly in progress that would use the old ETTP Powerhouse area for construction of a solar farm large enough to power 100 homes.

10. TCWP NEWS

10A. *Great new TCWP brochure*

After years of going brochure-less, TCWP has a great new full-color brochure, thanks to the hard work and cooperative effort of TCWP volunteers Tim Bigelow, Marion Burger, Jan Lyons (initial concept and interior photos), Lee Russell and Sandra Goss (text and cover), and Jimmy Groton (photo search and spacing, final preparation). Linda Higginbotham of SAIC provided invaluable help with final formatting, photos, and general fine-tuning. Use our brochure in your efforts to recruit TCWP members.

10B. *Upcoming activities*

[Contributed by Carol Grametbauer]

[NOTE: Times listed for all events are Eastern Daylight Time.]

National Trails Day Workday on North Ridge Trail – Saturday, June 2

TCWP's North Ridge Trail Steward, Susan Donnelly, will host a working morning on the section of the trail between Key Springs Road and Georgia Avenue on Saturday, June 2. In an event planned to coincide with National Trails Day, participants will trim vegetation from the trail.

The North Ridge Trail is TCWP's oldest ongoing stewardship project. Developed and maintained by TCWP members for many decades, the 11+-mile National and State Recreation Trail is one of the crown jewels of the acclaimed Oak Ridge Greenway system. Sections of the trail are available for adoption.

Volunteers should meet at 9 a.m. at the Orchard Avenue access (off West Outer Drive in Oak Ridge), where we'll begin the morning with juice and muffins and recognition of our three new trail stewards. The workday will conclude by noon. Wear weather-appropriate clothes and boots or sturdy shoes, and bring work gloves, drinking water, and protection against chiggers, ticks, and poison ivy. Hand tools such as clippers, hand pruners, loppers, and/or cordless weed-eaters will be useful. Chainsaws are not permitted. For more information or to register, e-mail Susan Donnelly at susanruns100s@me.com, or call TCWP Executive Director Sandra Goss at 865-583-3967.

Informational Program on Feedstock Supply for ORNL Biomass Steam Plant – Thursday, June 14

The Oak Ridge National Laboratory's new wood-fired biomass gasification plant will produce steam to be distributed throughout the Laboratory's campus for both process and space-heating purposes, using waste wood chips from area suppliers. On Thursday, June 14, Dr. Mark Downing, a senior scientist in the Bioenergy Program in ORNL's Environmental Sciences Division, will discuss "Sustainability Considerations for the Biomass Plant Feedstock Supply" in a program co-sponsored by TCWP and Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR). The event, which will include a question-and-answer session, will begin at 7 p.m.

at the Midtown Community Center in Oak Ridge, 102 Robertsville Road (at the corner of Robertsville and the Oak Ridge Turnpike). Refreshments and venue will be provided courtesy of the Oak Ridge section of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Additional information on all TCWP activities may be obtained from TCWP Executive Director Sandra K. Goss at Sandra@sandrakgoss.com or at 865-583-3967.

10C. Recent events

Obed rafting trip – Saturday, March 31

See ¶3C.

Wildflower Greenway Garlic Mustard Pull and Wildflower Walk – Saturday, April 7

[Contributed by Carol Grametbauer]

A group of 15 volunteers came out to continue our efforts to remove garlic mustard—a very invasive exotic that crowds out native plants—from the Wildflower Greenway behind Oak Ridge’s Rolling Hills Apartments. TCWP and Greenways Oak Ridge, co-sponsors of the event, have been having some success in recent years in eliminating this harmful plant from the greenway, which is one of the best wildflower trails in Anderson County. TCWP President Jimmy Groton led a wildflower walk as part of this year’s event, at which volunteers filled 31 bags with garlic mustard. Jimmy says Kris Light took some great photographs at the event, and “JD Goodlaxson got more bags of garlic mustard into his car than anyone would have ever believed was possible.” A pizza lunch was provided for all volunteers.

Wildflower Hike at Jackson Bend – Saturday, April 14

[Contributed by Larry Pounds]

Thirteen people from TCWP and the Tennessee Native Plant Society joined for this hike along Tellico Lake. The usual spring wildflowers were mostly gone, but we did see some interesting native plants, including eastern prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia humifusa*), yellow fruit horse-gentian (*Triosteum angustifolium*), baby blue eyes (*Nemophila aphylla*) and nettle-leaved sage (*Salvia urticifolia*). There was one mystery plant not yet in flower that no one was able to identify. Some hikers stopped along the way to rest and wait for the others to return, which helped to accommodate various hikers’ stamina levels. A shuttle was used to shorten the return hike.

Hike on Cumberland Trail – South Brady Mountain – Saturday, April 21

[Contributed by Larry Pounds]

The morning of this hike was quite dark, with clouds that would soon drop rain. No hikers showed up at the Oak Ridge or Harriman carpooling points or at the trailhead, so my son Ben and I decided to walk up the trail in the rain. On the way back down we met five people from the Emory Watershed Community Association (co-sponsors of this

hike) who had set out on their own. The rain stopped, and we all headed up Brady Mountain.

As expected, most of the spring wildflowers were done, but there was still much to see. The striking and very similar basal leaves of shooting star and American columbo were present, allowing us to figure out how to tell the two apart by the leaves. We saw American columbo nearly in flower, and a few flowers were left on the shooting stars. Two of five species of trillium—prairie and yellow—were still in bloom, as was dwarf larkspur. Two stalks of doll’s-eyes flowers were in perfect condition. Unfortunately, we just missed catching the wild hyacinth in bloom. We checked out four yellow-flowered carrot family members in bloom: hairyjoint meadow parsnip, yellow meadow parsnip, heart-leaved golden alexanders, and yellow pimpernel.

10D. Help wanted!

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Needed: 10 outgoing people to staff TCWP’s booth at the Secret City Festival. Two-hour shifts available on Friday and Saturday, June 15 and 16. There will be two people at the booth, where visitors can register for a drawing. The prize is Pigeon River rafting and zip-line-ride passes. The new TCWP membership brochure will be available for distribution, as well as our newsletter, and the irresistible bone and fossil exhibit will be on display. Training for volunteer ambassadors is available. For more information, call or write Sandra K. Goss, 865.583-3967, Sandra@sandrakgoss.com.

10E. *Pat Mulholland: the world loses a very special person*

Pat Mulholland, past member of the TCWP Board, died on Earth Day at the age of 60 from ALS. A distinguished scientist, with numerous awards and honors, he freely contributed his great intelligence and far-reaching expertise to efforts to achieve and perpetuate protection of our natural world. Among many examples: his trip to Nashville in 2009 to present expert testimony about the evils of then pending legislation that had the potential to wreck essential water-quality protections (NL285 ¶3A). He was a rare and wonderful man, and his loss is a grievous one.

10F. *TCWP Board member and son create Cumberland Trail website*

TCWP Board member Dr. Larry Pounds and his adult son Ben are hiking the Cumberland Trail – or at least the parts that are finished. (When completed, the 300-mile Trail will run from Signal Mountain near Chattanooga to Cumberland Gap.) They have created a website (<http://www.benandlarryincumberland.com/>) that includes nature observations, cartoons, and odd stories. The two plan to write a book about their travels after they finish hiking in June. Larry Pounds is an expert on Tennessee’s rare and endangered plants, and Ben is a 2010 graduate with a major in Creative Writing.

10G. *Notes from the Executive Director*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

In reviewing the past two months, the number of outdoor events that TCWP has sponsored or cosponsored impresses me. Thanks to the hard work of our Program Committee, ably chaired by TCWP Secretary Carol Grametbauer, we have provided an outstanding array of hikes and trail-maintenance events of varying difficulty levels and time demands.

Many of these involved cosponsorships with sister organizations, including Tennessee Native Plant Society, Cove Lake Hiking Group of the Tennessee Trails Association, Obed Watershed Community Association, and Greenways Oak Ridge. We all benefit when we share our logistic resources on events.

A frequent lament among environmental advocates is that we spend much time indoors at meetings, rather than outside, enjoying the natural resources we work to protect. I've done a good job this year of making time for the renewal and fellowship our outdoor activities offer. The natural world is magical in its wonder and it's good to be reminded of that through personal experience.

Looking forward, this summer TCWP will examine the draft revisions to the state's Oil and Gas Rules, mostly dealing with fracturing for natural gas. The Oil and Gas Rules hearings and deadlines are in July (see ¶2C). Please, call me or send an e-mail to indicate your willingness to receive messages on this topic. As we analyze the rules, we will develop bullet points about the them. I encourage you to use these to craft your own comments, and get those submitted by Friday, July 20.

Our work is cut out for us! TCWP will be working to address this issue and others that affect the places we love, the water we drink, and the air we breathe. For more information, call me or email me. Working together, we make a difference.

Sandra

10H. *Thanks, and a tip of the hat to ...*

[From Sandra Goss]

- Jean Bangham, John Bates, Frank Hensley, Charlie Klabunde, Dick Raridon, and Marti Salk for their work in preparing the TCWP newsletter for mailing.
- Mary Lynn Dobson, Olive Gaines, and Jimmy Groton for their work on TCWP's beautiful rain barrel entry in Knox County's Rainy Day Brush-off Contest.
- Tim Bigelow, Marion Burger, Jimmy Groton, Linda Higginbotham, Jan Lyons, and Lee Russell for bringing their talents to brochure development.
- Rick Zingg, Sam Suffern, Billy Bob Scarborough, Reid Gryder, Russell DeCastongrene for acting as safety boaters during the March 31 Obed River Whitewater Rafting trip, Obed WSR Rangers Thomas Hall and Matt Skaggs for manning one of the rafts, and Frank Hensley and Jimmy Groton for making arrangements.

- Jimmy Groton and Frank Hensley for their work on the Whites Creek Trail in Rhea County. (The normal January workday was cancelled due to weather on both the originally scheduled date and the snow date.)
- Jean Bangham, Carol Grametbauer, Jan Lyons for serving as TCWP Ambassadors at Oak Ridge Earth Day.
- Colin Campbell, Phil Campbell, Jimmy Groton, Charlie Klabunde, Lee Russell, and Priscilla Watts for their help with the ongoing TCWP Newsletter Digitization Project. Special appreciation to UT Library staffers Bridger Dyson-Smith and Seth Jordan for their expertise and their willingness to share it.
- Larry Pounds for ably leading several TCWP hikes in the past several weeks.
- State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath for leading the May 12 Rugby Hikes, and Kathy Sarvis for her help in securing the Cove Lake Hiking Group of the Tennessee Trails Association for cosponsoring the hikes.
- Obed Watershed Community Association President June Zimmerman for her work in OWCA cosponsoring the Brady Mountain hike.
- Roger Macklin and Greenways Oak Ridge for great work on the Oak Ridge Wildflower Greenway and the Garlic Mustard Pull.
- Carol Grametbauer and Charlie Klabunde for their work as Website Monitors and the incomparable Francis Perey for his wonderful work as TCWP Webmeister.
- Lee Russell for her superb writing and editing of the acclaimed TCWP Newsletter.

11. CALENDAR; RESOURCES

•• CALENDAR (events and deadlines)

(For details, check the referenced NL item; or contact Sandra Goss, 865-583-3967, or SandraGoss@sandrakgoss.com)

- June 2, North Ridge Trail workday on National Trails Day (see ¶10B, this NL).
- June 4-8, TennYen's Youth Empowerment Summit (YES!) at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Institute at Tremont. Information at conference@tennyen.org (see ¶2D, this NL).
- June 12, Deadline for commenting on EPA's proposed carbon standards (see ¶6A, this NL).
- June 14, Informational Program on Feedstock Supply for ORNL Biomass Steam Plant (see ¶10B, this NL).
- June 15 & 16, 10th Annual Oak Ridge Secret City Festival. Look for TCWP's exhibit among those in the library parking lot and surrounding area. For more information on all the events associated with the Festival, see www.secretcityfestival.com.

- July 10, TDEC office, Knoxville, hearing on proposed new oil & gas regulations (see ¶2C, this NL).
- July 20, deadline for written comments on proposed new oil & gas regulations (see ¶2C, this NL).

•• RESOURCES

- “The Paul J. Adams Photograph Collection” is now part of UT’s Digital Library (<http://www.lib.utk.edu/digitalcollections/gsm.html>) The photographs cover the period in 1925-26 when Paul Adams first started work on the compound that would eventually become the Le Conte Lodge.
- The White House has established a website for petitions (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/wethepeople>). The White House will also continue to accept petitions through its correspondence office. An official response is guaranteed for any petition that draws >5000 signatures.
- NPCA has launched a new blog, *The Park Advocate* (www.parkadvocate.org), which contains news on specific parks, opinion pieces, gorgeous photos, and educational videos.
- Nature’s Notebook is a program under which citizen scientist from across the country submit hundreds of thousands of observations of animals and plants at numerous sites. Observations include blooming times, bird nest construction, salmon migration, etc., etc. The program is part of the USA National Phenology Network and is funded by USGS, NPS, NSF, and the Univ. of Arizona. For more information, visit <http://www.usanpn.org/participate>.
- The sadly deficient media coverage of environmental news makes it difficult to get the information needed for letting members of Congress know we are watching them. To get this information, try www.switchboard.nrdc.org. Also, let news organizations know you want more coverage of environmental news.
- In *The Forest Unseen: A Year's Watch in Nature* (Viking/Penguin), biologist David George Haskell uses a one-square-meter patch of old-growth Tennessee forest as a window onto the entire natural world. Visiting the patch almost daily for one year to trace nature's path through the seasons, he brings the forest to vivid life. E. O. Wilson said of the book that it is, "a new form of nature writing, located between science and poetry." For other reviews, including (<http://on.wsj.com/wo8vnr>), see the book's website <http://theforestunseen.com>.
- Water is a natural resource being fought over. Visit http://www.weather.com/outlook/weather-news/news/articles/water-wars-the-battle-for-a-natural-resource_2012-03-25.
- The National League of Women Voters Education Fund has sponsored implementation of *VOTE411.org* that includes links and information about legislators and polling locations. For more information, contact edwardskm@aol.com.
- The Green Power Switch Program, under which you can pay for 150-kwh blocks of *renewable* energy on your utility bill, has added a calculator (www.greenpowerswitch.com/calculator).

**We are again offering Kroger Gift Cards and
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<marionburger@comcast.net>**

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Our "dues" year is the calendar year, Jan 1 to Dec 31. Contributions to TCWP **are IRS tax-deductible**.

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Numbers correspond to those in form below. "X"= none. (**Other contributions may just be coded c.**)

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Charles Klabunde, Treas., TCWP; 219 E. Vanderbilt Dr.; Oak Ridge, TN 37830

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PERMIT NO. 178

Now **127** are doing this:
– Instead of via Snail Mail --
their Newsletters are delivered as PDF's
attached to an e-mail. This is *only*
after they told us to make this change.
An e-mail to klabundece@aol.com does it.

Membership Renewal Dues *Now* !

See page 15.

But ALL Contributions are
VERY Much Appreciated.

TCWP's 2012 Board of Directors

Jimmy GrotonPresident
Frank Hensley ...Vice President
Carol Grametbauer.....Secretary
Charlie KlabundeTreasurer
Mark Bevelhimer..... Director
Tim Bigelow Director
Mary Lynn Dobson Director
Jo Hardin Director
Larry Pounds Director
Liane (Lee) Russell Director
Warren Webb..... Director
Sandra Goss Executive Director

Are you one of those as-yet
un-renewed TCWP members ?
We sure could use **your** help with our
Finances and Membership Count.
See page 15.